

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 10627 171924Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EB-11 DRC-01 /141 W

----- 115848

R 171558Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4028

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 10627

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK

SUBJECT: LIBERALS GIRD FOR CRUCIAL PARTY CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: BUOYED BY SPECTACULAR BY-ELECTION VICTORIES AND FAVORABLE OPINION POLLS, THE LIBERAL PARTY ASSEMBLES THIS WEEK FOR ITS MOST CRUCIAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE SINCE THE WAR. ASSURED OF INTENSE MEDIA COVERAGE, IT WILL SEEK TO CONVINCE THE ELECTORATE THAT IT NOW HAS THE PROGRAM AND THE PEOPLE AND THE SUPPORT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES. ITS POLICIES, BASED ON CONCERN FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND A NON-DOCTRINAIRE APPROACH TO PROBLEMS, HAVE CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL APPEAL. WITH CAREFUL PLANNING AND A BIT OF SHOWMANSHIP, THE LIBERALS COULD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 10627 171924Z

DO MUCH THIS WEEK TO SUSTAIN THE GROUNDSWELL OF

SUPPORT THEY CURRENTLY ENJOY AND EVENTUALLY RIDE IT TO A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LIBERAL PARTY WILL HOLD ITS MOST CRITICAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE SINCE THE WAR SEPTEMBER 18-22 IN SOUTHPORT. IT HAS WON FOUR OF THE LAST EIGHT PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTIONS IT HAS CONTESTED, AND SCORED A STEADY RISE IN THE PUBLIC OPINION POLLS. (THE OPINION RESEARCH CENTRE'S POLL OF PEOPLE'S VOTING INTENTIONS IN SEPTEMBER SHOWED LIBERALS WITH 29 PERCENT, CONSERVATIVES 30.5 PERCENT, AND LABOR 38 PERCENT.) AS A CONSEQUENCE, THIS WEEK'S DOINGS IN SOUTHPORT WILL ATTRACT INTENSE MEDIA ATTENTION. THIS IN TURN SHOULD GIVE THE PARTY A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO CONVINCE THE PUBLIC THAT IT HAS BOTH THE PROGRAM AND THE PEOPLE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES.

3. TO THIS END THE PARTY LAST WEEK ISSUED A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY STATEMENT SETTING OUT WHERE IT STANDS ON MOST MAJOR ISSUES (FULL TEXT BEING POUCED TO DEPT). AS SUCH DOCUMENTS GO, THIS ONE IS REASONABLY CLEAR, CONCISE, AND READABLE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, PERHAPS, IT SEEKS TO GIVE SOME PHILOSOPHICAL CONTENT TO MODERN LIBERALISM.

4. ITS OPENING SENTENCE PROCLAIMS THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF LIBERALISM AS A CONCERN FOR THE INDIVIDUAL. IT SAYS THE GREAT ISSUE OF OUR TIMES IS HOW TO COMBINE AND RECONCILE THE WELFARE STATE, DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, AND INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC INITIATIVE, AND ASSERTS THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY'S GREAT CLAIM IS THAT IT APPROACHES THIS ISSUE "WITH NO DOCTRINAIRE PREJUDICES, NO CLASS INHIBITIONS, AND NO SECTIONAL INTEREST." THE STATEMENT THEN GOES ON TO SUMMARIZE LIBERAL POLICIES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, HOUSING, LAND, HEALTH SERVICES, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORT, EDUCATION, IMMIGRATION, GOVERNMENT, AND THE EC. (FOR A DISCUSSION OF LIBERAL POLICY ON THE EC, CF. LONDON'S A-1142, SEPT. 12, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 10627 171924Z

1973).

5. IN CONCLUSION, THE STATEMENT SPOTLIGHTS FIVE THEMES UNDERLYING LIBERAL POLICIES: REDISTRIBUTION (OF WEALTH), PARTNERSHIP (IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS), DEVOLUTION AND DECENTRALIZATION (OF GOVERNMENT POWER), AND PARTICIPATION (OF ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN IN ALL DECISIONS AFFECTING THEM). FINALLY, THE STATEMENT PROCLAIMS THE

LIBERALS' ESSENTIAL INTERNATIONALISM.

6. COMMENT: AS THE LIBERALS MOVE NOW TO SPELL OUT WHERE THEY STAND ON THE MAJOR ISSUES OF THE DAY, THEY WILL INEVITABLY FORFEIT SOME OF THE PURELY PROTEST VOTES THEY PICKED UP IN RECENT BY-ELECTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, THEIR CENTRAL THEMES HAVE A SIMPLICITY THAT SHOULD LEND THEMSELVES TO EASY PROJECTION, AND MANY OF THEIR PROPOSALS, ESPECIALLY ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY REFORM, HAVE POTENTIALLY WIDE APPEAL. WITH CAREFUL PLANNING AND A LITTLE SHOWMANSHIP, THE LIBERALS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS WEEK'S PUBLICITY TO SUSTAIN THE GROUNDSWELL OF SUPPORT THEY CURRENTLY ENJOY AND EVENTUALLY RIDE IT TO A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

SOHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LONDON10627  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730930/aaaaawbg.tel  
**Line Count:** 132  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24-Jul-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LIBERALS GIRD FOR CRUCIAL PARTY CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** PINT, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005